REMARKS

Serial No: 10/711,156

Applicants and their undersigned representatives would like to thank the Examiner for granting a personal interview on June 19, 2007. In light of the interview, Applicants hereby amend claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11.

Claims 1-10 and 16-17 are pending in the present application. With this amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been amended and claim 11 canceled.

Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections made in the Office action of November 1, 2006 as well as the advisory action of November 18, 2007. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in allowable condition and request all rejections be withdrawn.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner is invited to directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. <u>14-1437</u>, referencing Attorney Docket No. <u>5233.012.NPUS01</u>.

Conclusion

Serial No: 10/711,156

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG, LLP

/Jason W. Bryan/ Jason W. Bryan Reg. No. 51,505

1000 Louisiana Ave 53rd floor Houston, Texas 77002 T: 713-571-3400 F: 713-456-2836